

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Process for checking the preloads applied on a nuclear fuel assembly[[.]] through clamping means installed in defined positions inside a housing provided in a transport container, the [said] process comprising the following successive stages:

- insertion, in the ~~said~~ housing, of a check template fitted with a series of force measurement means positioned corresponding to the clamping means so that each of the force measurement means abuts against the corresponding clamping means actually localized right up against each of the said positions; and

- simultaneous measurement of the forces exerted by ~~all~~ the clamping means against the corresponding force measurement means installed in the housing.

2. (original) Process according to claim 1, in which the forces measured are later compared with the predefined minimum and maximum values.

3. (original) Process according to claim 2, in which the said comparison is made by means of measurement processing software.

4. (original) Process according to claim 2, in which the results of the said comparison are displayed.

5. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, in which the check template is fitted with force measurement means on two adjacent sides of the ~~said~~ template.

6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, in which the measurement means are comprised of ~~constituted by~~ load cells ~~are used~~.

7. (currently amended) Device for checking the preloads applied on a nuclear fuel assembly through clamping means installed in defined positions inside a housing provided in a transport container, ~~in which the device comprises~~ comprising: a check template suitable for being inserted in the housing, the said template being equipped with a series of force measurement means located so as to be abutted against the clamping means suitable for being actually localized right up against each of the said positions when the template is placed in the housing in order to make a simultaneous measurement of forces exerted by ~~all~~ the clamping means installed in the housing.

8. (currently amended) Device according to claim 7, comprising ~~moreover~~ processing means suitable for comparing the forces measured with predefined minimum and maximum values.

9. (original) Device according to claim 8, in which the processing means comprise measurement processing software.

10. (currently amended) Device according to claim 8, comprising ~~moreover~~ means for displaying the results issued by the processing means.

11. (original) Device according to claim 7, in which the measurement means are placed on two adjacent sides of the check template.

12. (original) Device according to claim 7, in which the measurement means comprise load cells.

13. (new) The process of claim 1 where the check template is reusable.

14. (new) The process of claim 1 where the check template is removable.

15. (new) A method for checking preloads applied to a nuclear fuel assembly by a series of clamps located at designated positions inside a housing designed to fit inside a standard transport container, the method comprising:

- inserting a check template, having a series of load sensing means corresponding in position to the clamps, into the housing so as to align the series of load sensing means with the series of clamps;

- simultaneously measuring the force exerted by the clamps on the load sensing means;

- comparing the force exerted by the clamps against predetermined minimum and maximum values; and

- removing of the check template from the housing.

16. (new) The method of claim 15 where the measurement of the force exerted by the clamps is simultaneous.